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SONIC & KNUCKLES: MECHA MADNESS SPECIAL

48 PAGE COLLECTOR'S EDITION!

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SONIC & KNUCKLES: MECHA MADNESS SPECIAL

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Penciled by Pat Spaziante
Inked by Harvey Mercadoocasio
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THE CHAOTIX

in "Don't Let The Island Hit You On The Way Down!"

Written by Kent Taylor
Art by Harvey Mercadoocasio
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FORTY FATHOM FREEDOM FIGHTERS

in "Eel Of Fortune"

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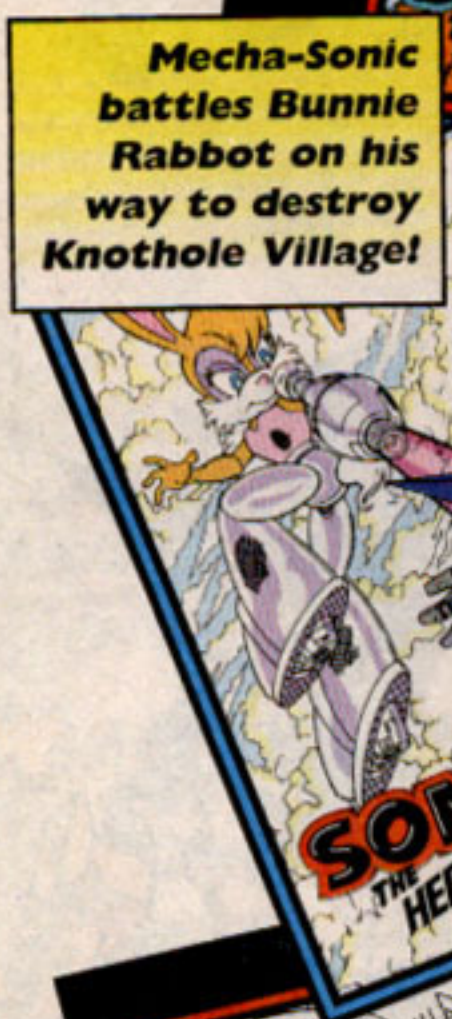
RECAP Trading Cards*

Sonic's request to allow himself to be roboticized is rejected by the Knothole Council.

FOOLISH FREEDOM FIGHTER! DID YOU REALLY THINK YOUR PRIMITIVE PRISON COULD HOLD NACK THE WEASEL FOR LONG?
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

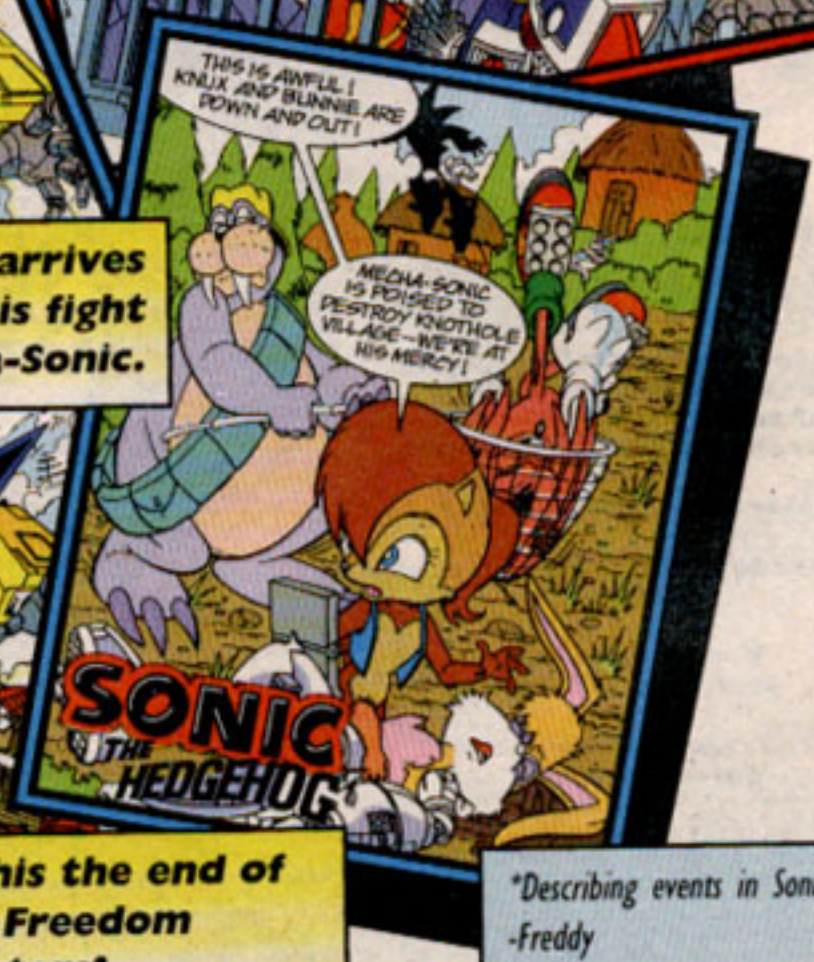
Sonic is ambushed by escaped convict, Nack the Weasel, and taken to Robotropolis.

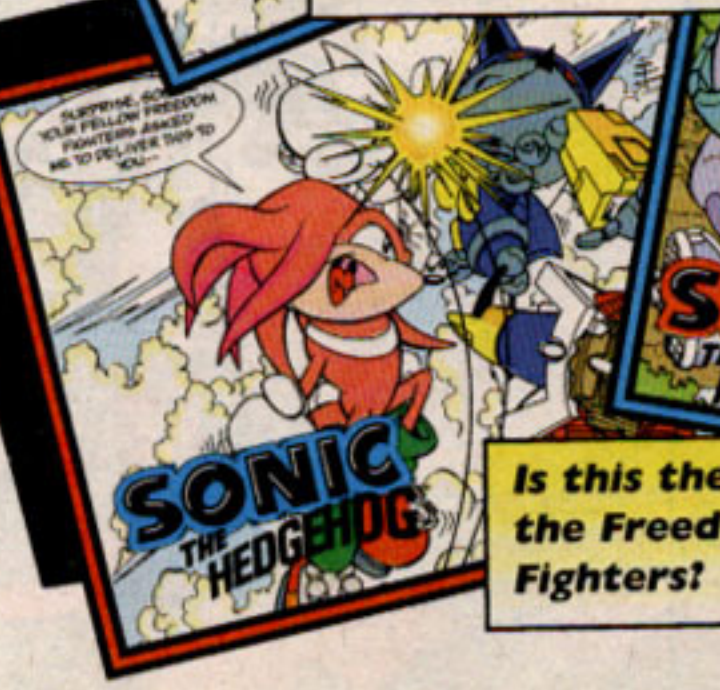


Mecha-Sonic battles Bunnie Rabbot on his way to destroy Knothole Village!

Robotnik finally creates the "real" Mecha-Sonic.

Knuckles arrives — loses his fight with Mecha-Sonic.


THIS IS AWFUL! KNUX AND BUNNIE ARE DOWN AND OUT!
MECHA-SONIC IS POISED TO DESTROY KNOTHOLE VILLAGE--WE'RE AT HIS MERCY!
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG



Is this the end of the Freedom Fighters?

*Describing events in Sonic #39
-Freddy

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

MECHA MADNESS PART 1

IS ABOUT TO TRASH KNOTHOLE!

YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS, MISTER!

:ULP: Y-YES YOUR M-MAJESTY! CATCH, 'TWAN!

ALORS! SHE EES SERIOUS!

SHE'S THE PRINCESS!

YOU BET I AM-- NOW MOVE OUT! ANTOINE, STAND BY WITH KNUCKLES!

NICOLE! I WANT A FULL SWEEP OF THE VILLAGE!

WORKING...

AS YOU COMMANDED, KNOTHOLE HAS BEEN EVACUATED!*

MECHA-SONIC IS INFLICTING HEAVY DAMAGE, BUT IT'S ALL STRUCTURAL.

SKRA-TOOM

*SALLY GAVE TAILS THE CODED ORDER IN SONIC #39 --Freddy

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DISOBEYED A DIRECT ORDER! SONIC'S BEHAVIOR BORDERS ON MUTINY!

I WEEL BE HAPPY TO FORM A SUB-COMMITTEE AND START AN INVESTIGATION!

DELAY THAT, BUSTER! I'M GIVING THE ORDERS HERE! ROTOR, BRING ME THE 'BOTMAKER!

:Shudder:

YES'M!

GIMME THE SKINNY--IS THIS THING READY TO GO?

AS YOU KNOW, WE ACQUIRED THIS "PORT-O-BOT" FROM ROBOTNIK AFTER OUR FIRST *BUNNIE RABBOT* ENCOUNTER...

ALTHOUGH IT WAS DAMAGED, I'VE BEEN REPAIRING IT AS YOU ORDERED... I THINK IT'S OPERATIONAL!

YOU *THEENK*? 'AVE THEES THING BEEN TESTED?

I KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION... "NO"! BUT IT'S ABOUT TO BE!

S-SUH-SALLY... IF I MAY S-SPEAK FREELY...

IF WE DO THIS, HAVEN'T WE SUNK TO ROBOTNIK'S LEVEL?

ARE WE NO BETTER THAN HIM?

ET TU, ROTOR?

LISTEN, YOU GUYS... WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE!

HUMMM..?

WE MUST USE EVERY WEAPON AT OUR DISPOSAL TO ENSURE SURVIVAL! PLANET MOBIUS IS AT STAKE-- LET FREEDOM RING!!

EH?

WUH- WE-WHA-- HUH?

MUH-MECHA-SONIC! KOFF MUH-MUST DESTROY!

WHOUF!

KNUCKLES --NO!

HE'S DELIRIOUS!

:GURGLE: INCOMING FAT FIGURE... ROBOTNIK!

KNUCKLES...

MUH-MUST PROTECT--

URRRGH!

WHOOOMF

THAT'S ENOUGH! I NEED ALL THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS I CAN GET AT THIS POINT!

AAARRR!

THRACK

I'VE ONLY KNOWN ONE PERSON WHO COULD TAKE ME DOWN WITH A FLIP BACK KICK...

PRINCESS SALLY ACORN!

HELLO, KNUX...

...IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

YEAH... REMEMBER WHEN YOUR DAD, KING ACORN, WOULD VACATION ON THE FLOATING ISLAND? MY FATHER WAS THE GUARDIAN BACK THEN!

CRACK

SNICK

:SIGH: THOSE WERE SIMPLER TIMES... SUMMER NIGHTS ON THE BEACH... NO ROBOTNIK...

OH, MAH! AH SMELL GOSSIP.. JUST WHAT AH NEED TO REVIVE!

ROBOTNIK! ENOUGH REMINISCING! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

OH, YEAH... Err... RIGHT!

MECHA-SONIC IS STILL ON THE LOOSE! I GOT AN OLD ROBOTICIZER AND NEURO-OVERRIDER STANDING BY, KNUCKLES--

WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

WAIT! LET ME EXPLAIN THE RISKS!

LET ME EXPLAIN THE CRAMP IT PUTS ON YOAH SOCIAL LIFE!

EXPLAIN IT AFTER YOU'VE TURNED ME INTO *MECHA-KNUCKLES!*

KTUNK!

EET 'AS BEGUN! I WEEP FOR US!

♪ SWING LOW ♪ SWEET CHAH-RE-UH-UHT! ♪

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

IS OBLITERATING KNOTHOLE VILLAGE!

MECHA MADNESS PART 11

SMASH

IT'S A GOOD THING I HAD THE PLACE EVACUATED! THERE'S NO ONE HERE ...EXCEPT...

UH-OH!

ME!

WHOOP... I'VE BEEN SPOTTED!

FREEDOM FIGHTER CODENAME: TAILS!

ELIMINATE!

YIPE! I'M OUTTA HERE!

VROOOOM

RAPID AERIAL ACCELERATION-- TARGET STILL WITHIN RANGE.

KAM!

CO-ORDINATES FED TO WEAPON SYSTEM...

I... M-MUST...

C-CANNOT...

M-MUST--

MECHA-SONIC!

YES, LORD ROBOTNIK?

DID I DETECT SOME HESITATION? YOUR ORDERS ARE TO WIPE OUT ALL YOUR FORMER ALLIES!

OH, NEVER MIND... I'LL DO IT MYSELF! GIVE ME YOUR CO-ORDINATES-- I'VE GOT A STOCKPILE OF NUCLEAR BOMBS I'M DYING TO USE!

S-SUH-SEND YOU THE LOCA-TION--

--OF KNOTHOLE?

YES, YOU MECHA-MORON! YOU ARE MY SLAVE! DO AS I SAY IMMEDIATELY!

...Y-YES... OF COURSE!

SORRY, MASTER--

THE NUMBERS ARE...

ONE MOMENT-- I HAVE TO PUT YOUR CALL ON "HOLD"!

SPLANG

GROWWGH!

MECHA-KNUCKLES IS IN CHARGE NOW... AND THE FIRST THING I'M GONNA DO IS SEVER YOUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH OLD BLUBBERBOLTS!

KSH

HOW DARE YGZZZT--

OBVIOUSLY, YOU HAVE RETAINED YOUR NORMAL ECHIDNA PERSONALITY--

CHCK!

WROK

GRACIOUS!

THAT FLAW SHALL BE YOUR UNDOING!

MON DIEU!

IT'S THE BATTLE OF THE SEGA-CENTURY!

GNYAAA!

WHO WILL PREVAIL?

THEY'RE VERY EVENLY MATCHED! THE ONLY THING IN OUR FAVOR IS THAT MECHA-KNUCKLES HAS FRESH LEGS!

IN YOUR FACE!

RIGHT! MECHA-SONIC HAS ALREADY BATTLED BUNNIE AND KNUCKLES IN HIS NORMAL FORM...

AWP!

LOOKY YONDER... TAILS IS COMIN' IN LOW!

PLUS YOU LET THE ECHIDNA KEEP HIS FREE WILL...

I'LL END THIS QUICKLY--BY LETTING YOU HAVE IT WITH BOTH BARRELS!

BRING IT ON! MY MAGNETIC KNUCKLAVKS WILL DISPERSE YOUR BLAST AND DRAIN YOUR BATTERIES!

:BRRZZT: MINIMAL ENERGY-- METAL FATIGUE-- :VRAP!:

TELL IT TO SOMEONE WHO GIVES A FIG!

CRAB!

CLIK

MEANWHILE, ENJOY THE SPIN CYCLE!

WHIRL

WHIRL

WHIRL

ADMIT IT, HEDGEHOG-- YOUR LIFE'S IN A RUT!

MECHA-SONIC GOT TRENCHED!

GRRRBLBLG!

FIRE IN ZEE HOLE!

TO PARAPHRASE HENDRIX: "'SCUSE ME WHILE I 'DIS' THIS GUY"!

INCOMING SPEED SQUARED DIVIDED BY ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE--ADD IMPACT ANGLE PLUS ACCELERATION--

COMPUTED...

...EXECUTE!

TO PUT IT IN LAYMAN'S TERMS YOU CAN UNDERSTAND, MECHA-KNUCKLES: "THIS WALLOP WILL SEND YOU DIRECTLY INTO THE HEART OF ROBOTROPOLIS"!

EEEEYOW!

ZAM

SAY "HELLO" TO THE NUCLEAR WARHEADS FOR ME!

HE'S RIGHT...I'M GONNA HIT THE CITY AT SUBSONIC SPEED... NO WAY TO STOP!

YOUR DESTRUCTION IS ASSURED!

BUT I DON'T LIKE TO TRAVEL ALONE, MECHA-SONIC! BY INVERTING THE POLARITY IN MY CLAWS, I CREATE A MASSIVE MAGNETIC FIELD!

ONE YOU'LL FIND IMPOSSIBLE TO RESIST!

UHHH! I'M BEING MAGNETIZED!

IF I'M GOING DOWN, YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

NO! RELEASE ME, YOU FOOL--

KTANG

WAHH

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG...

MECHA MADNESS PART III

...COULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED THAT BLAST... EVEN IN HIS MECHANIZED FORM!

I DOUBT M'SIEU ECHIDNA COULD HAVE, EITHER...

INDEED... THE ODDS ARE AGAINST IT.

THEN SONIC... ;SOB;...AND KNUCKLES ...;HUCK;

;CHOKE; EXCUSE MÉ A MOMENT... I... ;Sniffle; I'VE GOT FALLOUT IN MY EYE...

GOSH! IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY AT THE TOP...

OUI... UNEASY 'ANGS ZEE CROWN!

I'D BE UNEASY IF I WERE AT GROUND ZERO!

AT THAT MOMENT, GROUND ZERO SMOULDERS... A MASSIVE CRATER IN THE MIDSECTION OF ROBOTROPOLIS SIZZLES WITH RADIATION.

SWATBOTS WERE VAPORIZED. FACTORIES AND TOXIC TRASH REDUCED TO MOLTEN SLAG. THE AIR IS FILLED WITH POISONS.

THE EERIE SILENCE IS SUDDENLY BROKEN.

CREEEEAK

K-K-KRUMF

GADZOOKS! THAT'S THE BIGGEST BACKFIRE OF MY ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER!

LUCKY I SAW THE INCOMING COMBATANTS AND RETREATED TO MY SHELTER!

MYMYMY! THOSE TWO DID MAJOR DAMAGE! IT'LL TAKE LOTS OF REBUILDING TO--WHAT'S THIS?

SOMETHING MOVING IN THE RUBBLE!

COULD IT BE? DID MECHA-SONIC SURVIVE THE IMPACT?

YES! HE'S BADLY DAMAGED, BUT REPAIRABLE!

VZZZKT!

:chuckle: CAN I BUILD A 'BOT OR WHAT?!

AWKK...

GUESS WHAT?

TAP TAP

WHOOOG!

BONG

I SURVIVED THE BATTLE, TOO! THEN IT OCCURRED TO ME--OUR FIGHT SCENE DIDN'T HAVE THE REQUIRED HEAD-BUTT!

:GURGLE: B-BUT HOW'D YOU COME THROUGH THE BLAST WITH LESS DAMAGE?

LET'S JUST SAY YOU DON'T BUILD EM LIKE YOU USED TO, TUBBY...

BLHRG...

I WAS ROBOTICIZED BY ONE OF YOUR OLD UNITS... BUILT BEFORE YOU STARTED USING INFERIOR FOREIGN PARTS... NOT ONLY THAT, BUT MECHA-SONIC UNSELFISHLY TURNED HIMSELF IN FRONT OF ME AS WE HIT, TAKING THE FULL BRUNT!

SO MUCH FOR YOUR "BRAIN-BURN-THROUGH" SYSTEM! SOMEHOW, SONIC RETAINED A BIT OF HIMSELF!

LIGHTS OUT, FATTY!

:BZZT: I WISH I WAS AS CONFIDENT AS I'M TRYING TO SOUND... THE NUCLEAR FIRESTORM WAS NO PICNIC FOR ME, EITHER! :KZZRPT: BUT MECHA-SONIC IS CRITICAL!

MALFUNC :ZRP: TION...

HOLY ABALONE! IT'S THEM! CALL SALLY!

PRINCESS, COME BACK--LOOK!

SONIC™

MECHA MADNESS

PART IV

THE HEDGEHOG...

...IS ALIVE? OR AT LEAST MECHA-SONIC IS? OH, KNUCKLES, YOU DID IT!

MAYBE, SAL OLD GAL... YOUR BOYFRIEND'S IN BAD SHAPE!

I'LL SAY!

HMF!

BZZZZZZT! CLICK!

PSSH

C'MERE, YOU GREAT BIG HUNK OF ECHIDNA...

OOF! EASY KID... I'M DAMAGED GOODS, TOO!

CLK

CONFIRMED... MECHA-KNUCKLES' TOLERANCE LEVELS BEYOND MAXIMUM. DANGER OF BURNOUT.

WOO-HA! I'M HEARING VOICES...

THAT'S MY COMPUTER, NICOLE ...AND SHE'S RIGHT ABOUT YOU!

TAILS! ESCORT MECHA-KNUCKLES TO THE PORT-O-BOT AND SET IT TO DEROBOTICIZATION!

AND WHAT OF SONIC?

RIGHT... C'MON, RED!

YOU KNOW HOW THAT OLD ROBOTICIZER WORKS... ITS BUILT-IN REVERSAL SYSTEM CAN ONLY DE-BOT THE SAME CREATURE IT MECHANIZED!

YES... BUT THE REAL SONIC'S IN HERE... I CAN FEEL IT!

BZZT-- GRRGL--:-: N-NOO-

=VWHEEP= I DO NOT DE =HMM= DESERVE TO LIVE... =CRACKLE= I BETRAYED MY FRIENDS AND =DZZT= LOVED ONES...

=GULP= SONIC! YOU ARE IN THERE!

HERE, ROTOR--TAKE NICOLE AND FIGURE OUT A WAY TO SAVE SONIC! THAT'S WHY YOU GET SCIENCE OFFICER PAY!

I'LL BE OVER HERE!

ALMOST READY, SALLY!

IT'S YOU AND ME, BIG BOY!

OH, MY ACHIN' EVERYTHING!

SYSTEM REVERSED!
SEE YOU ON THE FLIP SIDE, MUSTANG SALLY!
I SALUTE YOU, KNUCKLES!
MAH Oh MAH! I NEVER SAW HER DO THAT!
:tsk: ZEE TABLOIDS WILL HAVE A FIELD DAY!
IF ALL GOES WELL, HE'LL BE OUT IN ABOUT THREE MINUTES!
KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, TAILS! I'LL BE OVER BY SONIC AND ROTOR!
GIVE ME YOUR REPORT!
IT'S REMARKABLE, YOUR MAJESTY! NICOLE HAS MADE AN ASTONISHING DISCOVERY INSIDE SONIC!
NICE!
I'LL LET HER TELL YOU--
THANK YOU, ROTOR... AS WE ALL KNOW, SONIC RECENTLY ACQUIRED HIS ONE BILLIONTH MAGIC RING! IT TOOK HIM ON A SURREAL JOURNEY! WHEN IT BROUGHT HIM BACK TO THIS REALITY, THE RING SURROUNDED HIM WITH A PROTECTIVE MYSTICAL AURA.
YES...
...SO?
*IN THE NOW-CLASSIC SONIC#35.-FMG

UNKNOWN TO US, IT ALSO CREATED AN INTERNAL SHIELD! ALTHOUGH THIS AURA DIDN'T PREVENT MECHANIZATION, IT DID ABSORB AND RETAIN SONIC'S "LIFE FORCE".

ROBOTNIK'S "BRAIN-BURN-THROUGH" DEVICE COULDN'T PENETRATE THE MAGIC FIELD. SONIC'S PERSONALITY STILL RESIDES THERE.

WONDERFUL! LET'S RETRIEVE IT A.S.A.P!

ERR...WELL--HMM--OVER TO YOU, ROTOR!

OH, THANKS A LOT!

AHEM...SALLY, NORMALLY I'D HOOK UP MECHA-SONIC TO MY LAB FULL OF EQUIPMENT AND TRY TO BRING HIM BACK...BUT IT'S TOAST ALONG WITH THE REST OF KNOTHOLE VILLAGE!

OH, DEAR... MAYBE WE CAN SALVAGE SOME COMPONENTS?

I'M AFRAID HE DOESN'T HAVE THAT MUCH TIME, PRINCESS. :Choke:

:Sniff:

IN :VRAP: DEED... I'M LATE FOR MY :KZZT: EXPIRATION DATE...

YOUR HIGHNESS, I HAVE THE DATA... PLUG ME INTO MECHA-SONIC AND I'LL TRY TO INSTIGATE THE RETRO-PROCEDURE!

CAN SHE DO THAT, ROTOR?

I DOUBT IT, SALLY... THE REQUIRED ENERGY WOULD--

HEY!

OW!

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, PRINCESS... CATCH ME!

NICOLE?

LOOK--MACHINES ARE ALWAYS GETTING A BAD RAP AROUND HERE... LET ME TRY! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

Hmm--

VERY WELL, MY LOYAL COMPUTER IT'S UP TO YOU-- GO FOR IT!

KYMMM

ACKNOWLEDGED!

INTERNAL RING CRUST ACCESSED... SYSTEM LINKAGE ALIGNED... OUTPUT TO MAXIMUM--

ENGAGE!

AT FIRST, NOTHING SEEMED TO BE HAPPENING...

...THEN ALL AT ONCE, RAW MAGIC ENERGY RIPPLES OUTWARD, OVERRIDING REALITY...

...RESTORING THE TRUE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL ESSENCE OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

IT WORKED! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

I WILL BE AFTER THIS MI-GRAINE HEADACHE LETS UP!

WHOO!

NICE JOB, NICOLE!

WELL, WELL... LOOK WHO'S BACK AND BLUE!

THAT'S RIGHT--IT'S ME, KNUCKLES! GOOD AS NEW! ...OH, DON'T GET UP!

WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?

HO! A LIKELY STORY!

YOU MEAN YOU DON'T REMEMBER?

WHAT AM I DOING HERE?! ONLY SAVING EVERYBODY FROM YOU, SPINEBRAIN!

YEAH, RIGHT! G'WAN BACK TO YOUR FLOATING ISLAND, ECHIDNERD!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK ME TWICE! I MIGHT'VE KNOWN YOU'D BE UNGRATEFUL!

FORGET IT, SALLY... I'M FLYING HOME! I'LL CALL YOU SOMETIME-- AFTER YOU DUMP "MR. CONGENIALITY" THERE!

BUT--

I WANTED TO--

YOU--

ME...

?

OH, DRAT!

NICE GOING, HOT-HEAD! AFTER KNUX SAVED ALL OUR BUTTS!

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? LAST THING I REMEMBER IS BEING ROBOTICIZED...

CHI-CHAN-K

HANDCUFFS? WHAT'S THIS--SOME KIND OF JOKE?

AU CONTRAIRE, SONIC, YOU'RE UNDAIR ARREST!

'TWAN?

KINGDOM OF ACORN RULEBOOK-- SECTION L, PARAGRAPH 73... NICOLE?

"ANY SUBJECT DISOBEYING A DIRECT ORDER MUST BE TRIED FOR TREASON"!

=GULP=

AND SONIC DID THAT WHEN HE ALLOWED ROBOTNIK TO MECH-ANIZE HIM!

NO! THAT'S NOT HOW IT HAPPENED!

SAVE IT FOR COURT SONIC!

=GASP= SALLY!

I'M AFRAID ANTOINE IS RIGHT... THE LAW IS CLEAR... TAKE THE TRAITOR IN!

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

YOU'RE ALL NUT'S! I'VE BEEN FRAMED!

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT...

THE END of MECHA-SONIC

BUT, STAY TUNED FOR SONIC #40

~ featuring ~

THE COURT-MARTIAL OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

Robotnik Rules!

IT'S AMAZING...

FWAP!

IT'S AMAZING THAT WHILE A BATTLE HAS BEEN WON ON PLANET MOBIUS...*

...ANOTHER BATTLE IS BEING LOST ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!

* SEE MAIN STORY-AREADY!

WE ARE NOT NATURAL ENEMIES, SMALL ONE, BUT THE AIR IS THE DOMAIN OF PREDATOR HAWK!

THUD

THEY CALL THIS BOY MIGHTY?! WELL, HE'S PRETTY WEAK WHEN IT COMES TO GUERRILLA WARFARE!

BRACK!

THE CHAOTIX

DON'T LET THE ISLAND HIT YOU ON THE WAY DOWN!

SGT. GIMIAN TO SQUAD TWO--OUR LANDING HAS SET OFF AN ALARM!

PROCEED TO POINT "B" WITH CAUTION!

EEEEE

...AND AT POINT "B"...

EEEEEEEEEEEEE

SOMETHIN'S NOT COOL 'CAUSE CHARMY AND MIGHTY ARE GONE TOO LONG!

THIS AIN'T NO FALSE ALARM!

I THOUGHT THINGS WOULD BE COOL WHILE KNUCKLES WAS AWAY-- BUT IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE GOT INTRUDERS! RIGHT, ESPIO?

EEEEEEEEE

THAT WON'T HELP HIM AGAINST ME!

Hmm... I GUESS YOU WON'T TALK WHEN YOU'RE IN "SPY MODE"!

WHA--! NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE SEEN ME!

AGHH

WHO NEEDS TO SEE YOU WHEN MY KEEN SENSES CAN LET ME CATCH YOUR SCENT--EVEN HEAR YOUR HEARTBEAT!

ESPIO, LOOK OUT!

EEEEEEEEEE

EEEEEEEEEE

TEE HEE BETTER WATCH YOUR OWN TUSHY!

KOP!

UGH! A DUDE FAST ENOUGH TO TAG ME?!

TEE HEE I HEARD YOU HAVE A "REP" FOR SMOOTH MOVES, BUT YOU'RE NOTHING COMPARED TO FLYING FROG!

CLUNK

YEAH, WELL WHEN YOU'RE TALKIN' FAST MOVES, NOBODY CAN MATCH LIGHTNING LYNX!

AS OUR STRANGE INVADERS CONVENE...

SQUAD TWO TO SARGE... WE GOT THE DROP ON THE CHAMELEON AND THE CROC!

THESE SOLDIERS DIDN'T KNOW BATTLE LESSON ONE--

--ONE OF THE BEST ADVANTAGES IS THE "ELEMENT OF SURPRISE"!

THESE FOUR WERE CERTAINLY NO CHALLENGE!

SUDDENLY...

...WELL, HERE'S LESSON TWO--

--FOUR DIFFERENT ANIMALS LIKE US CAN STILL PLAY POSSUM!

GAKK!

POW

LESSON THREE-- NEVER UNDERESTIMATE AN OPPONENT'S SPEED...

...OR STRENGTH!

BREKK!

SPLAK!

DON'T FORGET LESSON FOUR...

...THE VALUE OF TEAMWORK!

SPLAT!

OOF!

--OR LESSON FIVE--

SPLOW!

--SMALL THINGS CAN PACK A BIG PUNCH!

AGGH!

YEAH!

OK, TALK! WHO'RE YOU AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

THE ONLY THING YOU'LL LEARN TODAY ARE OUR NAMES, RANKS AND SERIAL NUMBERS...

...AND THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON OF ALL...

HUH...?

...ALWAYS EXPECT THE *UNEXPECTED*!

THUNK

YOU'VE ALREADY MET MY *FEARSOME FOURSOME*, NOW ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF...

...I AM THE *FORMER* RULER OF MOBIUS...

...AND ITS *FUTURE* LORD AND MASTER... I AM THE SUPREME BEING KNOWN AS... *MAMMOTH MOGUL*!

"I WAS BORN ON *MOBIUS* EONS AGO...LONG AFTER THE BIRTH OF THE *ANCIENT WALKERS*, BUT CENTURIES *BEFORE* MOST MODERN RACES...

"LIFE THEN WAS FRAUGHT WITH MYSTERY AND DANGER... AND A BOLT OF ENERGY FROM AN UNKNOWN *JEWEL* WHICH SHOULD HAVE CAUSED DEATH...

"...GRANTED ME ALMOST *LIMITLESS POWER* INSTEAD!

"I USED THAT POWER TO BECOME MASTER OF ALL I SURVEYED..."

"...BUT OVER THE MILLENIA THE RACES EVOLVED, GAINING STRENGTH AND *INDEPENDENCE*... THEY REVOLTED, AND I WAS *DETHRONED*!

"YES, I DID SAY *MILLENIA*! THAT UNKNOWN JEWEL'S ENERGY HAD GRANTED ME POWER AND *IMMORTALITY*!

100

300

1000

5000

10,000

"AND OVER TIME, I DISCOVERED THAT THE JEWEL WAS THE MOST POTENT FORM OF ENERGY IN THE UNIVERSE. YES... A *CHAOS EMERALD*!"

...AND AS YOU CAN SEE, I HAVE A CERTAIN *AFFINITY* FOR THEM!

NOW, AFTER EONS OF WAITING, MY TIME HAS COME--I WILL INCREASE MY POWER A THOUSAND-FOLD... BY TAKING THE FLOATING ISLAND'S *CHAOS EMERALD*!

THEN I WILL OUST *ROBOTNIK* AND REGAIN MY POSITION AS MOBIUS' RIGHTFUL *RULER*!

Y'KNOW, A BEING OF YOUR WISDOM DESERVES TO BE WORSHIPPED...

...SO LET'S GIVE HIM THE RESPECT HE *DESERVES*!

KA-POW

IT SEEMS I'VE ERRED--THE TIME IS *NOT* RIGHT!

NO MATTER! I HAVE PLENTY OF *TIME* TO PLAN ANEW-- AND WHEN I'M READY, I WILL **RETURN!**

SURE YOU WILL, TOUGH GUY--

--AND *WE'LL* BE WAITING!

THE END

BECAUSE You DEMANDED IT!...

the FORTY FATHOMS FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN EEL of FORTUNE

ROLL CALL

RAY

BIVALVE

BOTTLENOSE

P.B. JELLYFISH

HEY! I'D KNOW THAT SLIMY SILHOUETTE ANYWHERE...

...IT'S OUR OLD ENEMY, OCTOBOT!*

*FIRST SEEN IN TRIPLE TROUBLE SPECIAL AND AGAIN IN THE *TAILS* MINI-SERIES #1 -- FREDITOR.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THESE WATERS, EIGHT-BALL? CARRYING OUT MORE OF ROBOTNIK'S EVIL PLANS?

YULP! P.B. JELLYFISH! DON'T STING ME... I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH ON MY WAY OUT OF HERE!

HMT! YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU BELIEVE ... JUST STAND ASIDE!

I'M NOT HANGING AROUND NOW THAT HE'S HERE!

HE WHO?

HE ME!

ZOOSH

HUH?

I'M EEL CAPONE, BOSS OF THE UNDERWATER UNDERWORLD! AND YOU'RE FLOATIN' IN MY TERRITORY, PUNK!

YOU MUST BE NUTS!

IZZAT SO? WELL, YOU'RE GONNA BE SOME SEAGULL'S SUPPER WHEN I'M FINISHED WITCHA!

GRR... STAND BY-- YOU'RE ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE "TENTACLE DIFFICULTY!"

HAW!

NOT LIKELY, JELLY BELLY...MY HIRED MUSSEL WILL SEE TO THAT!

GIT 'IM BOYS!

OW! YOW! A MOB OF MURDEROUS MOLLUSKS!

GNASH!

BITE!

SNAP!

PINCH!

CHEW!

NIP!

CHOMP!

YANK!

SOME TIME LATER..

HE'S COMING OUT OF IT!

Ooooggsh...

R.U.O.K. P.B.?

RAY! BIVALVE! OMIGOSH--I GOT WORKED OVER BY--

YES...THE P.I.A.* TOLD US IT WAS EEL CAPONE!

WHAT'LL WE DO?

*THE PLANKTON INTELLIGENCE AGENCY--F.M.

I DON'T KNOW...HE'S A DANGEROUS DUDE!

AND WELL PROTECTED! THOSE MUSSELS ALMOST DID ME IN!

WHAT ABOUT OUR BIG FELLA, FLUKE, THE BLUE WHALE?**

**THIS LIKEABLE LEVIATHAN WAS LAST SEEN IN TAILS MINI-SERIES # 2--FACT-FILLED FREDDY.

NO--FLUKE'S MIGRATING... HE'S THOUSANDS OF NAUTICAL MILES FROM HERE!

WE'VE GOTTA STOP CAPONE! HE'LL ENSLAVE US ALL AND RUIN OUR ENVIRONMENT!

FEAR NOT, MY AQUATIC ALLIES! I'LL STOP THAT SWIMMING SERPENT!

=gasp=

Y-Y-YUH--

YOU!

ELSEWHERE...

OKAY, YOUSE GUYS... MY TERRITORIAL BOUNDARY ENDS HERE... AT THE CONTINENTAL SHELF!

AW, CLAM UP!

I TOLD YA I WAS ON EDGE!

GEEZ... A TWO MILE DROPOFF!

IT WOULD SEEM YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT *CURRENT EVENTS*, EEL!

HUH? WHO SAID THAT?

FOR EXAMPLE, I CAN CREATE A *CURRENT* THAT'LL BLOW YOUR MUSSELS OVER THE CLIFF!... THAT'S QUITE AN *EVENT*!

YOIKS! WOT THE--?!

ZWOOOSH!

EEEYAA!

NOOOO!

GOODBYE, CRUEL WORLD!

HOLY ABALONE! ALL MY HIRED MUSSEL--DROPPING INTO THE MURKY DEEP AND BEING CRUSHED BY THE WATER PRESSURE!

GNCH!

SNAP!

POP!

CRUNK!

KCHK!

WHOEVER DID THIS JUST WON A TICKET TO DAVY JONES' LOCKUHHHHH!

WHUMP!

YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST A MASTER OF THE MARINE MARTIAL ARTS!

I AM A FINJA WARRIOR... HIII-YA!

FTUWK!

ghurrgh!

NOW TO FINISH YOU OFF WITH ONE OF MY FINJA STARFISH!

OOF!

Zing

TWOK

WHEN YOU WAKE UP IN AQUATRAZ, TELL THEM YOU WERE TAKEN DOWN BY...

BOTTLENOSE!

LOVE THOSE THREADS!

NICE WORK, PAL!

THANKS! I'M GLAD ALL MY TRAINING FINALLY PAID OFF!

WHAT A TRIUMPH!

IT SHOULD BE IMMORTALIZED IN SONG!

gurgle...

WELL... IF YOU INSIST...

WHY NOT? LET'S CRUISE PAST THE CHORAL REEF!

WHEN-A-DOLPHIN-HITS-AN-EEL LIKE-A-BIG-PIECE-OF-VEAL... THAT'S A-MORAY!

DIS IS CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUN-ISHMENT!

THE END...

(UNTIL YOU REQUEST MORE "4F" STORIES BY WRITING TO SONIC-GRAMS!)